

Comparison of Payphone Deployment (1999-2001)

State	Payphones as of 3/31/99	Payphones as of 3/31/00	Payphones as of 3/31/01	% change from 1999 - 2000	% change from 2000 - 2001	% change from 1999 - 2001
Alabama	23,869	24,237	21,894	1.5%	-9.7%	-8.3%
Alaska	2,343	4,583	4,594	95.6%	0.2%	96.1%
Arizona	34,199	33,363	37,326	-2.4%	11.9%	9.1%
Arkansas	17,730	16,954	15,006	-4.4%	-11.5%	-15.4%
California	294,734	267,956	246,580	-9.1%	-8.0%	-16.3%
Colorado	27,151	27,035	25,863	-0.4%	-4.3%	-4.7%
Connecticut	23,556	25,941	24,197	10.1%	-6.7%	2.7%
Delaware	5,712	5,694	5,433	-0.3%	-4.6%	-4.9%
District of Columbia	10,366	10,505	8,635	1.3%	-17.8%	-16.7%
Florida	120,650	119,207	107,213	-1.2%	-10.1%	-11.1%
Georgia	56,453	61,519	58,222	9.0%	-5.4%	3.1%
Hawaii	8,670	8,943	8,196	3.1%	-8.4%	-5.5%
Idaho	7,031	6,854	6,435	-2.5%	-6.1%	-8.5%
Illinois	108,332	106,368	95,145	-1.8%	-10.6%	-12.2%
Indiana	43,384	42,429	38,114	-2.2%	-10.2%	-12.1%
Iowa	11,786	11,183	10,155	-5.1%	-9.2%	-13.8%
Kansas	19,667	16,949	15,881	-13.8%	-6.3%	-19.3%
Kentucky	26,552	19,233	21,244	-27.6%	10.5%	-20.0%
Louisiana	27,535	27,835	26,290	1.1%	-5.6%	-4.5%
Maine	7,524	7,496	6,980	-0.4%	-6.9%	-7.2%
Maryland	42,609	43,336	37,783	1.7%	-12.8%	-11.3%
Massachusetts	53,754	53,034	50,976	-1.3%	-3.9%	-5.2%
Michigan	88,226	83,159	69,361	-5.7%	-16.6%	-21.4%
Minnesota	20,898	16,831	20,621	-19.5%	22.5%	-1.3%
Mississippi	16,201	16,201	15,295	0.0%	-5.6%	-5.6%
Missouri	45,645	42,510	36,543	-6.9%	-14.0%	-19.9%
Montana	5,591	5,884	5,673	5.2%	-3.6%	1.5%
Nebraska	9,554	9,668	9,539	1.2%	-1.3%	-0.2%
Nevada	23,509	17,504	17,006	-25.5%	-2.8%	-27.7%
New Hampshire	7,938	8,132	7,851	2.4%	-3.5%	-1.1%
New Jersey	99,355	95,781	86,533	-3.6%	-9.7%	-12.9%
New Mexico	11,679	11,374	10,378	-2.6%	-8.8%	-11.1%
New York	186,217	171,098	175,045	-8.1%	2.3%	-6.0%
North Carolina	56,630	45,943	43,598	-18.9%	-5.1%	-23.0%
North Dakota	2,932	2,507	2,303	-14.5%	-8.1%	-21.5%
Ohio	33,054	71,266	68,850	115.6%	-3.4%	108.3%
Oklahoma	27,699	26,164	22,321	-5.5%	-14.7%	-19.4%
Oregon	21,898	21,659	20,780	-1.1%	-4.1%	-5.1%
Pennsylvania	90,313	90,603	84,209	0.3%	-7.1%	-6.8%
Rhode Island	7,602	8,935	8,287	17.5%	-7.3%	9.0%
South Carolina	26,133	28,444	26,053	8.8%	-8.4%	-0.3%
South Dakota	3,927	4,326	4,364	10.2%	0.9%	11.1%
Tennessee	35,338	38,929	31,593	10.2%	-18.8%	-10.6%
Texas	163,047	147,720	135,247	-9.4%	-8.4%	-17.1%
Utah	11,346	11,466	11,378	1.1%	-0.8%	0.3%
Vermont	3,714	3,761	3,593	1.3%	-4.5%	-3.3%
Virginia	61,876	57,621	49,378	-6.9%	-14.3%	-20.2%
Washington	35,646	34,368	34,274	-3.6%	-0.3%	-3.8%
West Virginia	11,490	11,704	11,017	1.9%	-5.9%	-4.1%
Wisconsin	36,712	35,383	32,623	-3.6%	-7.8%	-11.1%
Wyoming	3,749	3,868	3,765	3.2%	-2.7%	0.4%
Total	2,121,526	2,063,463	1,919,640	-2.7%	-7.0%	-9.5%

ATTACHMENT 14

Northwest Florida Daily News (Fort Walton Beach, FL)
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Will pay phones become extinct?

By DUWAYNE ESCOBEDO, Daily News Contributing Writer

Across Northwest Florida, and the rest of the country too, pay phones are rapidly disappearing.

Sprint has pulled 12 percent of its pay phones locally. BellSouth announced in February it's ridding itself of all 143,000 of its pay phones in nine southeastern states, including 32,000 in Florida.

And some local independent pay phone providers estimate reductions anywhere from 10 percent a year to as much as half during the past three years.

Nationwide the number of pay phones has plummeted from 2.6 million to 2.1 million in the past five years, a nearly 24 percent drop.

Mike Jett, Pro Telecom Inc. president, operates about 700 pay phones from Fort Walton Beach to Tallahassee. The company also serves Alabama and Georgia. His company now maintains about half the number of phones it did just three years ago.

"I won't lie to you. It's been tough," he said. "More independent providers have gone out of business than have stayed in. But we plan to survive".

The first public pay phone was installed in 1889 and by 1902 about 80,000 existed. By 1960 more than 1 million were in operation. They often were the only phone in a community or rural area.

So, if there's no more phone booths, where will Clark Kent change into Superman in the 21st century?

The pay phone industry blames the 1996 Telecommunications Act that deregulated phone companies. Deregulation spurred calling cards, pre-paid calls, toll-free numbers and 10-10 dial-around numbers.

Pay phone operators were supposed to get 24 cents from the phone company handling the call but 20 to 50 percent of those revenues go uncollected, reports the American Public Communications Council, which represents about 1,600 independent pay phone companies. It's a loophole the Federal Communications Commission is planning to close, which could restore about \$300 million a year in revenue, the APCC said.

Plus, there's stiff competition from the explosion in popularity of cell phones, pagers, e-mail and other wireless communication devices.

Although some have predicted the pay phone going dead in 10 years, David Blumenthal expects a healthy dial tone for many years to come. The BellSouth spokesman said even though his company plans to pull the plug on all of its pay phones by the end of 2002, others will remain.

"We foresee there will always be a place for them," he says. "They'll be around another 100 years or more. People want alternatives".

Because of their convenience, public safety reasons and the fact that about 6 million Americans don't have a phone, local pay phone operators agree. Pay phone proponents also point out millions more don't have cell phones, wireless service is sometimes spotty and unreliable, and pay phones provide more secure lines than do cell phones.

Jason Duff said Sprint has no intention of following BellSouth's lead. The Sprint spokesman said his company began evaluating its pay phone system more than a year ago to determine which phones were profitable and would survive. Sprint refused to provide the exact number of pay phones it owns and how many it has cut, citing competitive reasons.

"There's a shift in the industry, yes, but we're a firm believer in pay phones," Duff said. "We're well positioned with BellSouth's departure, as one of the most well recognized brand names".

Duff said the almighty dollar isn't the only consideration by Sprint to subtract pay phones, however.

"If they are serving a public good, that is first and foremost," he said. "If there is no other service available but it is not profitable, more times than not, we'll leave it in".

Despite FCC rules revisions, which take effect in about a year, James Thomas would like to see an automatic charge of at least a quarter before a pay phone would begin working.

Thomas is manager of Public Phones Inc., which owns [pay phones] from Panama City to Pensacola. The independent carrier has reduced its number of pay phones by 10 percent a year over the last few years, while major pay phone companies like ETS have filed for bankruptcy.

"I'm not happy," he said. "I see the number of pay phones continuing to decrease. We have a lot of locations big companies would have because they don't generate enough to their bottom line. But if you're jogging in a city park and somebody is suffering from heatstroke and you need to call 911, how much is a pay phone worth then?"

NOTES

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